



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
May 25, 2002

Assessment for Learning

More Reports for Districts

Districts should receive the following reports from Riverside by June 3:

- *District Flat Data Files* (if ordered by the district)—Shipped the week of May 20
- *District RADRS* (if ordered and purchased by the district)—Shipped the week of May 20
- *District Customized Skills Reports*—Will ship the week of May 28
- *Optional Services Ordered and Purchased by Districts*—Should receive all by June 3

The Office of Public Instruction will receive state level reports beginning June 3. The OPI Assessment Data Team is preparing a timeline for state results. Watch for details in summer issues of JUMP.



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent
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Calculator Survey

To begin a much requested discussion about calculator use on portions of the Iowa Tests, a calculator survey was emailed to all test coordinators and districts contacts earlier. In addition, the survey is online: www.opi.state.mt/assessment/index.html. Many test coordinators have met the May 20 deadline; however, if your district has not completed the survey, please download it from the assessment web page, complete it, and send it to Lindy Miller (lindmiller@state.mt.us or fax: 406-444-3924) by the end of the school year.



Refresher Video Broadcast

On May 9 and 14, the Assessment Office at the Office of Public Instruction presented video broadcasts on the interpretation and use of Iowa Tests Scores. Test Coordinators Irene Strauss of Whitehall and Tracy Stephens of Livingston, Frosyne Mensendick, Riverside Publishing, and Bob Runkel, Lynn Hinch, and Judy Snow of the Office of Public Instruction participated in the broadcasts.

A new item for use in reporting Alternate Assessment Scores to students and parents was presented. It is the counterpart to the Riverside Student Profile Narrative. It and Alternate Assessment conversion charts are available online. A 2002 Interpretive Guide and the Power Point slides for the video broadcast are also online. All of these items are at www.opi.mt.us/assessment/index.html.

The May 9 broadcast was taped, and the video is available to be checked out from OPI for 10 days. Districts may make a copy of the video before returning it. To check out the video, contact Lindy Miller (lindmiller@state.mt.us or 406-444-6774).

Looking Ahead: 2003 *Iowa Tests*

The state has contracted with Riverside Publishing for the *Iowa Tests* in grades 4, 8, and 11 for spring of 2003. The tentative test window is March 10 - March 28. We will continue with the same process used for the 2001 and 2002 tests for these grades with the exception of payment.

The following is an excerpt from a February, 2002 letter to School and County Superintendents and District Clerks from Superintendent Linda McCulloch:

"Unfortunately, the Office of Public Instruction does not have the resources for the 2002-2003 school year to pay for the statewide assessment. Regrettably, the legislature felt the need to pass that expense on to districts. We anticipate that the cost to schools will be \$6 per student in grades 4, 8, and 11. OPI will plan to bill school districts following the fall enrollment count in October 2002. The payment will be due to the Office of Public Instruction no later than March 1, 2003. OPI will then make one payment to Riverside after they have satisfactorily fulfilled their contract obligations. To pay for this expense, your district may use monies from the district general fund, the school flex fund, and the federal impact aid fund. During the 2001 legislative session, OPI successfully advocated to allow districts to use the school flex fund monies to pay for student assessment and evaluation (20-9-543, MCA)."

New Test Coordinator for 2002-2003????

If someone else in your district will be the test coordinator for 2002-2003, please contact Judy Snow (jsnow@state.mt.us or 406-444-3656) with the name and email address. JUMP will be published in the summer months; we want to ensure that everyone gets necessary information. Thank you.

Have a
Great
Summer!!



Pilot Program— Professional Development Assessment Sampler

Professional development workshops are available during the summer and fall to the first district in each of the five professional development regions to make arrangements for one of the two workshops listed below. Contact Judy Snow (jsnow@state.mt.us or 406-444-3656).

To determine which professional development region you are in, consult the CSPD map at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/CSPD/Home.htm>. The map is for a different program, but the regions are the same. And, you will need to scroll way down the page to see the very large map.

1. Rubrics: General Guidelines or General Guidelines and for Writing Assessment
 - a. General Guidelines covers rubric issues, creation, and use.
 - b. General Guidelines and for Writing Assessment also covers rubric issues, creation, and use but is longer because of a focus on writing assessment.
2. Rubrics: General Guidelines or General Guidelines and for Math Performance Assessment
 - a. General Guidelines covers rubric issues, creation, and use.
 - b. General Guidelines and for Math Performance Assessment also covers rubric issues, creation, and use but is longer because of a focus on math performance assessment.

For further information, contact:

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